(c) Does not arise.

Deaths caused by epidemics

983. SHRI YERRA NARAY ANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any priority has been accorded by Government to prevent deaths caused by epidemics and afflictions like plague, malaria and dengue;

(b) whether there is any overall strategy to study and tackle such serious health hazards;

(c) if so, when was the strategy developed; and

(d) the details of funds allocated to implement this nation-wide, anti-mass casualties and affliction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A National Apical Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary to formulate a nation-wise disease surveillance network. The ac tion points envisaged under the dis ease surveillance scheme are collection and flow of information, strengthening of laboratory diagnostic sevices, net working of centres and continuous monitoring of disease prevalence.

(c) The strategy for establishing a national disease surveillance system was initiated in 1994-95.

(d) Rs.3.00 crore have been allocated for disease surveillance during 1997-98.

Per captia Expenditure on Medicines in rural areas

984. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount spent on medicines in rural areas during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to raise the limit of expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Centre does not maintain the record of per capita expenditure on medicines. However, as per the information available from the Central Statistical Organisation, a statement showing Government expenditure on public health and also the per capita expenditure on health, and also the per capita expenditure on health, State/UT-wise is at Annexure *[See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 29]. This does not include the expenditure on Public Health by local authorities. The State-wise allocation of grant-in-aid under Family Welfare Programme is at Annexure. *[See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 29]

Efforts are being made to provide more funds in the 9th Five Year Plan.

T.B. Patients in the Country

985. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the State-wise number of people suffering from T.B. in the rural as well as urban areas in the country, during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): It is estimated that about 14 million people are suffering from tuberculosis in the country. The ratio of TB cases to population both in urban and rural areas is almost same. A statement indicating number of new TB cases reported during the last 3 years, State-wise is annexured *(See* below).